

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, MAY 5, 1975: EC TO SIGN
MEDITERRANEAN AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

REFS: A) EC BRUSSELS 3631

B) EC BRUSSELS 3879

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTERS OF GERMANY, FRANCE AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE
MAY 5 EC COUNCIL SESSION WAS ABLE TO MAKE SOME PROGRESS.
IT DECIDED THAT THE COMMUNITY WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT WITH
ISRAEL PRIOR TO MAY 15 BUT THAT THOSE PORTIONS OF THE
AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PROCESSED
FRUITS AND VEGETABLES--ASPECTS WHICH THE ITALIANS FIND
PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE--WILL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THE
CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES.
IN ADDITION, THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY DISCUSSED RAW MATERIALS
AND ADOPTED A DECLARATION CALLING FOR INCREASED COMMUNITY
ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL (REPORTED SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

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2. NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL: AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE,

THE MINISTERS REACHED A COMPROMISE WHEREBY THE COMMUNITY WILL SIGN ITS AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL PRIOR TO MAY 15, PROBABLY IN BRUSSELS ON MAY 11. (THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS SCHEDULED TO DEBATE THE MEDITERRANEAN QUESTION ON MAY 15 AND THE COUNCIL WISHED TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL PRIOR TO THAT DATE TO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF GIVING THE PARLIAMENT A "RIGHT OF REVIEW" OVER SUCH AGREEMENTS). THE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL WILL COME INTO FORCE ON JULY 1 (SEE REF A AND PREVIOUS); HOWEVER, THE COMMUNITY INTENDS TO ATTACH TO THE AGREEMENT A UNILATERAL DECLARATION STATING THAT CONCESSIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES (PEELED TOMATOES, TOMATO PASTE, TOMATO JUICE AND GRAPEFRUIT JUICE AND SEGMENTS) WILL ONLY COME INTO EFFECT AFTER THE COMMUNITY TAKES CERTAIN INTERNAL DECISIONS. (PRESUMABLY THIS MEANS DECISIONS ON A COMMON IMPORT SYSTEM FOR PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, INCREASED PENETRATION PREMIUMS FOR ITALIAN ORANGES, ETC.). BY THIS DEVICE, THE MINISTERS INTEND TO HOLD UP THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THIS PORTION OF THE EC-ISRAEL AGREEMENT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB COUNTRIES CAN BE CONCLUDED.

3. THE MINISTERS ALSO DECIDED TO PRESS ON WITH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MAGHREB, BUT AS IN THE CASE OF THE ISRAELI AGREEMENT, HAVE AGREED TO AN ITALIAN REQUEST THAT ANY CONCESSIONS MADE REGARDING THE IMPORTATION OF CERTAIN SENSITIVE PRODUCTS (WINE, NEW POTATOES AND PROCESSED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES) WILL COME ONLY AS A RESULT OF "INTERNAL COMMUNITY DECISIONS" AND WILL NOT SPECIFICALLY BE PART OF THE NEGOTIATED MAGHREB AGREEMENTS. A SPECIAL COUNCIL SESSION OF EC AGRICULTURE MINISTERS IS TO BE HELD, PROBABLY BEFORE MAY 15, TO TRY ONCE MORE TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF THE AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS.

4. SPAIN: THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RECONSIDER COMPROMISE PROPOSALS REGARDING THE RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN FOR NEW AGREEMENT UNDER THE EC'S "GLOBAL" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEDITERRANEAN POLICY. WHEN THE MATTER WAS LAST RAISED IN COREPER, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS AND FRANCE REPORTEDLY OBJECTED TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ALTHOUGH THE OBJECTIONS OF THE TWO LATTER STATES WERE NOT CONSIDERED SERIOUS.

5. RAW MATERIALS: THE MINISTERS BRIEFLY CONSIDERED THE SUBJECT AND CONFIRMED THE NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY

CONSIDERATION TO THE FORMULATION OF AN OVERALL COMMUNITY ATTITUDE TOWARD RAW MATERIALS QUESTIONS. THE BRITISH DELEGATION PRESENTED A REPORT ON THE IDEAS PROPOSED BY PRIME MINISTER WILSON AT THE COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN KINGSTON, AND ON THE REACTIONS TO HIS SUGGESTIONS. FURTHER DISCUSSION, OF RAW MATERIALS, TO BE BASED ON A NEW COMMISSION PAPER, WILL TAKE PLACE AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS TO BE HELD IN DUBLIN ON MAY 26 TO PREPARE FOR THE OECD MINISTERIAL AND OTHER FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT. (WHETHER THIS MEETING WILL BE LABELED A COUNCIL SESSION OR "POLITICAL COOPERATION" HAS NOT YET BEEN DECIDED).

6. POST PREPCON SITUATION: THE MINISTERS HELD A SHORT, RESTRICTED EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE AFTERMATH OF THE PARIS PREPCON INCLUDING THE KEY QUESTION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RAW MATERIALS AND ENERGY. WE UNDERSTAND THE DISCUSSION WAS GENERAL, FOCUSED ON WELL-KNOWN DATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR, AND PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. ALL MINISTERS PRESENT REPORT-EDLY EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE PRODUCER COUNTRIES.

7. PREPARATIONS FOR THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT COUNCIL; JULY 16-17: THE FOREIGN MINISTERS SET A TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL (HEADS OF GOVERNMENT) WHICH IS TO TAKE PLACE IN BRUSSELS JULY 16-17. THEY HAVE ALSO DECIDED TO SCHEDULE A FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL SESSION ON JULY 15 AND ON THE MORNING OF JULY 16 TO MAKE FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL. TOPICS TENTATIVELY ENVISAGED FOR DISCUSSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT INCLUDE CSCE, ENERGY, RAW MATERIALS, AND THE COMMUNITY'S ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SITUATION. BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS IS ALSO EXPECTED TO GIVE A STATUS REPORT ON HIS MISSION REGARDING EUROPEAN UNITY.

8. LOME CONVENTION RATIFICATION: THE MINISTERS WERE URGED BY EC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON TO EXERT THEIR INFLUENCE TO SPEED UP WORK BEING DONE AT A TECHNICAL LEVEL PREPARATORY TO RATIFICATION OF THE LOME CONVENTION. THEY REFERRED THE MATTER TO COREPER WITH INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT BE DEALT WITH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

9. NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL: COMMISSION PRESIDENT

ORTOLI URGED MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON A COMMISSION PROPOSAL FOR THE STANDARDIZATION OF DISPOSAL METHODS FOR NUCLEAR WASTE. GERMANY WHICH HAS HAD RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE FINANCING OF SUCH EFFORTS SAID IT WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER IMMEDIATELY.

10. FOOD AID: THE COUNCIL DISCUSSED PROBLEMS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEW ALLOCATION OF COSTS INCURRED UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID CONVENTION AND ASKED COREPER TO RESOLVE THE MATTER IN TIME FOR THE COMMUNITY TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL EXTENDING THE FOOD AID CONVENTION FOR A FURTHER YEAR.

11. THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAVE CANCELLED THE COUNCIL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 3 AND WILL NEXT MEET IN LUXEMBOURG ON JUNE 24. MYERSON

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